

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An implant package for a cochlear implant, said implant package including stimulator electronics contained within a protective housing and being operably coupled to an electrode array adapted for insertion into ~~the-a~~ cochlea of ~~the-a~~ patient, and being ~~further operably coupled to in electrical communication with~~ a receiving and/or transmitting coil enclosed within a protective casing, said protective housing being dimensioned and shaped to be capable of location within ~~the-a~~ mastoid cavity of ~~the-said~~ patient nearer to ~~the entry point of the electrode array to the cochlea, said further coupling~~ ~~said electrical communication~~ being contained in a flexible connection between ~~the-said~~ protective housing and ~~the-said~~ protective casing.
2. (Currently Amended) The implant package of claim 1, wherein ~~the-said~~ flexible connection facilitates optimal positioning of ~~the-said receiving and/or transmitting coil~~, depending on ~~the~~ anatomy and age of ~~the-said~~ patient.
3. (Currently Amended) The implant package of claim 1, wherein ~~the flexibility of the~~ ~~said~~ flexible connection between ~~the-said~~ protective housing and ~~the-said~~ protective casing is such as to allow changes in head shape as ~~the-said~~ patient grows.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~The implant package of claim 1, An implant package for a cochlear implant, said implant package including stimulator electronics contained within a protective housing and being operably coupled to an electrode array adapted for insertion into a cochlea of a patient, and being further operably coupled to a receiving and/or transmitting coil enclosed within a protective casing, said protective housing being dimensioned and shaped to be capable of location within a mastoid cavity of said patient nearer to an entry point of said electrode array into said cochlea than said protective casing, said further coupling being contained in a flexible connection between said protective~~

housing and said protective casing, wherein said flexible connection facilitates optimal positioning of said coil, depending on the anatomy and age of said patient, wherein said flexible connection between said protective housing and said protective casing is such as to allow changes in head shape as said patient grows, and wherein the said flexible connection is made from a material having memory so that the said further coupling retains its shape after installation into the said mastoid cavity.

5. (Previously Presented) The implant package of claim 1, wherein the implant package is electrically coupled to the electrode array.

6. (Previously Presented) The implant package of claim 1, wherein the implant package is electrically coupled to the receiving and/or transmitting coil.

7. (Original) The implant package of claim 6, wherein the flexible connection includes one or more flexible arms containing leads which electrically connect the implant electronics to the receiving and/or transmitting coil.

8. (Previously Presented) The implant package of claim 1, wherein the implant package is a receiver-stimulator package for a cochlear implant.

9. (New) The implant package of claim 1, wherein said flexible connection is made from a material having memory so that the coupling retains its shape after installation into the mastoid cavity.

10. (New) An implant package for a hearing implant, said implant package comprising:
a protective housing containing stimulator electronics;
at least one electrode adapted for insertion into an inner ear and in operable communication with said stimulator electronics;
a receiving and/or transmitting coil enclosed in a protective casing; and
wherein a flexible connection is provided between and directly attached to said protective housing and said protective casing.

11. (New) The implant package of claim 10, wherein said flexible connection facilitates optimal positioning of said receiving and/or transmitting coil, depending on anatomy and age of a patient.

12. (New) The implant package of claim 10, wherein said flexible connection between said protective housing and said protective casing is such as to allow change in head shape as the patient grows.

13. (New) The implant package of claim 10, wherein said flexible connection is made from a material having memory so that the coupling retains its shape after installation into the mastoid cavity.

14. (New) The implant package of claim 10, wherein the protective housing is electrically coupled to said at least one electrode.

15. (New) The implant package of claim 10, wherein the protective housing is electrically coupled to the receiving and/or transmitting coil.

16. (New) The implant package of claim 15, wherein the flexible connection includes one or more flexible arms containing leads which electrically connect the implant electronics to the receiving and/or transmitting coil.

17. (New) The implant package of claim 10, wherein the implant package is a receiver-stimulator package for a cochlear implant and said at least one electrode is adapted for insertion into the inner ear.

18. (New) The implant package of claim 17, wherein said protective housing is nearer to an entry point of said at least one electrode into said cochlea than said protective casing.